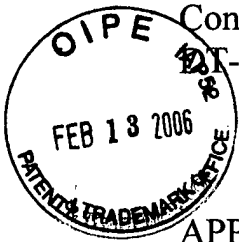


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DT-6776

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Thomas Bader

SERIAL NO.: 10/789,120

FILED : February 27, 2004

FOR : HOLDING DEVICE FOR A FASTENING ELEMENT

EXAMINER: Hadi Shakeri

GROUP: 3723

Mail Stop: **AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2005, in which the Examiner rejects claims 1-18 for allegedly being indefinite, as well as claims 1-6 and 10-11 as being unpatentable over the prior art, and indicates the claims 7-9 and 12-18 would become allowable upon having been rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 7-9 and 12-18 has been duly noted. However, applicant believes that rewriting claims 7-9 and 12-18 in independent form (claim 6) is not necessary as they depend on a claim earnestly believed to be allowable.